THE

RAGGED SCHOOL UNION QUARTERLY RECORD.

WITH WHICH IS INCORPORATED

"THE RAGGED SCHOOL UNION MAGAZINE."

THE *Christian soldier* urges on his way,
Armed for the conflict, eager for the fray;
Not his the panoply of earthly fight,
Truth is his weapon, God his strength and might.
He seeks the dens of ignorance and sin,
Braves pestilence and death, his foes to win;
'Mid dark dank slums, festering with crime,
He wanders to improve, exalt, sublime:
Where misery stalks, and want's deep surges roll,
He offers balm to every wounded soul;
Conquers by love, and on the Gospel plan,
Shows how the brute and fiend may yet be man;
Lures him from death, and from the gates of hell,
Points to the Cross, beneath it bids him dwell;
Preaches the risen Lord, who in the skies
Promises bowers of bliss, and paradise:
And shall he sink unhonoured to the tomb?
No meed of praise pervade the charnel's gloom?
He pleaded at the rich and noble's door
For means to impart instruction to the poor;
Proclaimed the hand of kindness as the rule
Of Christ's command, then planned the Ragged School;
Gathered the outcasts in, and taught that He,
Their common Saviour, was pleased to see
The poor and contrite at His footstool fall,
Though want and poverty surrounded all.
Then at the last, with labour worn, opprest,
He sinks, a *conqueror*, in the grave to rest.
Then angels sing
His welcome to the palace of their King.

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PREFACE—REVIEW.

ANOTHER volume of Records of "Our Work" being now completed, we have here an opportunity to say a last word by way of preface and review.

The year will be remembered by many as the one in which were removed to their eternal home some of the most active workers in the cause—veterans, fathers, leaders who had "borne the burden and heat of the day;" while others entered upon their work with a new-born zeal of recent converting grace, who evidently had been among those labourers "standing idle in the market-place" till "the eleventh hour," and then "hired." They worked during their last "hour" of life, and the gracious Master released them, and gave them their "penny," in one sense making them "equal" to those who had worked from "early in the morning." But who can say that the capacity or power for the full enjoyment of the "penny" is the same in both? "Paul the aged" or John the beloved would have a capacity for "the glory that shall be revealed" to "the elders," that the thief who died upon the cross after a few moments of living faith in the crucified Saviour, with no time to bring forth "the fruit of the Spirit in all goodness and righteousness and truth," could never possess. The veteran and the novice when called home will shine as stars in the firmament of "the third heaven." But the degree of brightness of those stars varies, "for one star differeth from another star in glory." Those just hired may justly covet (aspire to) the blessing of those who have laboured "one hour," and these in their turn may wisely covet the blessedness of those whose tenure of work has been more prolonged, for all are exhorted to "covet earnestly the best gifts," for—

> "Then shall each star become a sun,
> Fill'd with a lustre all Divine;
> And to eternal ages shine."

It is gratifying to place on record that there are faithful successors to those "veterans and novices," and that the work in their hands is succeeding, yea, extending. In this volume we have again and again referred to it. And we have a purpose in repeating it here. There is one phase of our mission that makes us anxious, and we are desirous that our friends and supporters should share with us that anxiety. We have endeavoured to put the matter fairly before them in an article on page 121. It will be there seen that the Committee of the Ragged School Union in the last three years have voted to the affiliated schools an excess of £2,000 more than all they have, in that time, received from their subscribers and donors; and at their last meeting held in September they had to take another £1,000 from their reserve fund to keep the schools at work. It must be clear to all that such a state of things cannot long continue, hence our anxiety, and our desire for our friends to know our position in time to render the relief so much needed.

As it is, from want of funds the friends of some of the schools have hesitated in their efforts, others have suspended part of their operations, while a few have disbanded their schools and closed their doors. Had these gone on in their usual work, the extensions, to which we have already referred, would have been very much greater than they are.

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither thou goest."

In conclusion let us say,

"Don't hoard the *seed*."

See page 126.

"Cast thy bread (seed) upon the waters; for thou shalt find it after many days."

"*Bis dat, qui cito dat.*"

EXETER HALL, LONDON,
October, 1878.

EDITOR, J. G. G.

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